Cut down of funds of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

4694. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY :
SHRIMATI N. P DURGA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Finance Ministry has cut the funds of "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" meant for the universalization of education programme in every village;

(b) whether the Ministry failed to release money to the States for the purpose in 2002-2003; and

(c) when would all the 65 villages be covered by the above programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) During the year 2002-2003, Department of Elementary Education and Literacy released Rs. 1569.04 crore for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan against the BE allocation of Rs. 1680 crore.

(c) The programme covers the entire country and addresses the needs of 192 million children in 11 lakh habitations. 8.5 lakh existing primary and upper primary schools and 33 lakh existing teachers would be covered under the scheme.

RBI suggestions on Fiscal Deficit of States

4695. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether voicing concern over deteriorating State finance, the Reserve Bank of India has suggested that State Governments should tax services, fix user charges on the services they offer and move ahead with pension reforms;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have agreed to the RBI's suggestions;

(c) if so, how many States have so far taken legislative and other steps to tax the services as suggested by the RBI; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful for the States ?